



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/283,169	04/01/99	LAWRENZ-STOLZ	J COHD-3252

MICHAEL A STALLMAN
LIMBACH & LIMBACH
2001 FERRY BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111

MM22/0201

EXAMINER	
SANGHAVI, H	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2874

DATE MAILED: 02/01/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/283,169

Applicant(s)
Lawrenz-Stolz

Examiner
Hemang Sanghavi

Group Art Unit
2874



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 22, 1999

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 10, 12, and 14-21 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 10, 12, and 14-21 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 2874

Response to Amendment

Status of application:

In response to the applicant's response received on November 22, 1999, applicant's arguments regarding claims 10, 12, and 14-21 have been fully considered but are not deemed to be persuasive. See the detailed discussion in the remarks section.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 10, 12, and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over d' Auria et al (US 4,147,403; hereinafter Auria et al), Comerford et al (US 4,079,404), and Dakss et al (US 4,269,648).

Auria et al discloses an apparatus for coupling laser radiation from an array of laser diodes into a plurality of optical fibers corresponding in number to the number of laser diodes in the laser diode array, the apparatus further comprises an optical fiber lens as a cylindrical lens having the length of the linear laser diode array. The lens and the light entrance side of the optical fibers are aligned with the laser diodes for receiving radiation emitted therefrom

Art Unit: 2874

and focussing the received radiation into the plurality of optical fibers. See Fig. 5 and lines 32-54 of column 4.

Auria et al, as discussed above, fails to disclose the laser diodes as a laser diode array.

Comerford et al discloses an optical assembly comprising a semiconductor laser diode array structure having array of emitter regions; a plurality of optical fibers carrying light emitted from the laser through a cylindrical lens. See column 2. Such integral structure of plurality of laser diodes in an array form provides an efficient way to control each of the laser diodes in the array and reduces the cost of the device where the array lasers is being used. Also, such laser diode array is readily available to the ordinary artisan.

From collective teachings of Comerford et al, the ordinary artisan would have found it to be obvious at the time of the invention to provide a laser diode array in the apparatus for Auria et al, for the purpose of advantageously reducing cost of the apparatus and efficiently coupling the laser diode array to the optical fibers.

Auria et al further fails to disclose the attaching of the cylindrical fiber lens to each of the optical fibers and method step of gluing the cylindrical lens onto the linear array of light entrance sides of the optical fibers.

However, Auria et al teaches that the lens must be carefully aligned with respect to the optical fibers and it is accomplished by gluing lens on to a substrate on which the optical fibers are disposed. It should be noted that the optical fibers abut the cylindrical lens in a manner to center the lens on the light entrance ends to facilitate alignment.

Art Unit: 2874

Dakss et al, in a related art, discloses a method for mounting lens on an end of an optical fiber comprising the steps of attaching lens directly to an end of the optical fiber using a bead of glue in a manner to self center and align the lens with a laser source. The technique used in Dakss et al provides an efficient and easy of attaching the lens to the end of the fiber which does not require extensive aligning steps of adjusting the lens and the fiber to achieve maximum coupling of light. See column 1 for the drawback of the prior art techniques for attaching the lens to the end of the fiber and lines 55-66 of column 3 for the advantages of the disclosed technique in Dakss et al.

Thus, from desirability in the apparatus of Auria et al and collective teachings of Dakss et al, the ordinary artisan would have found it to be obvious at the time of the invention to attache of the cylindrical fiber lens to each of the optical fibers and method step of gluing the cylindrical lens onto the linear array of light entrance sides of the optical fibers for the purpose of advantageously properly collimating laser radiation from the laser diode array and avoiding the problem of mis-alignment.

As to claims 8 and 17, in Fig. 3, Auria et al teaches that the diameter of the cylindrical fiber lens is chosen to be less than the diameter of the optical fiber to be coupled without loss in coupling efficiency.

Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over d'Auria et al, Comerford et al, Dakss et al, and Scifres et al (US 4,818,062).

Art Unit: 2874

Auria et al, as discussed above, fails to use the apparatus for pumping a laser gain medium.

Scifres et al discloses an optical system for pumping a solid state gain medium comprising a coupling of optical fibers to a linear array of lasers and carrying light emitted by the lasers to a solid state gain medium. It is extremely desirable in laser arts to efficiently pump the laser through the laser diode array and optical fibers so as to avoid thermal dissipation in the region of a solid state laser if only the laser diode array is used.

From collective teachings of Scifres et al, the ordinary artisan would have found it to be obvious at the time of the invention to use the apparatus of Auria et al for pumping a solid state laser gain medium, since such apparatus avoids the problem of heat dissipation in the region of the solid state laser and efficiently pumps the laser.

Remarks

Response to arguments:

Applicant's arguments are not deemed to be persuasive for the following reasons:

At page 2 of the response, applicant argues that the Dakss patent relates to the attachment of individual microspheres to individual fibers and there is no hint or suggestion that this method could be applied to simultaneously attaching an elongated fiber lens to multiple transport fibers. Applicant further argues that the approach described in Dakss could not be used to attach a cylindrical lens to multiple fibers simultaneously. Applicant further argues that one

Art Unit: 2874

skilled in the art would also not be motivated to abandon to the step of gluing the fiber lens to the base as taught in d'Auria in favor of the approach Dakss.

Examiner respectfully disagrees with the above statements. First, Examiner will discuss the d'Auria patent. As discussed above, the d'Auria teaches to attach a single optical fiber lens to plurality of transmission fibers. In such arrangement the transmission fibers are placed on the substrate (holder). In lines 47-50 of column 4, the d'Auria patent teaches that the assembly of the fibers on the substrate is performed in the same way as in the situation where there is only one transmission fiber. The d'Auria patent also teaches the assembly including the coupling of only single lens and single transmission fiber (Figs. 1-2) can also be applied to coupling of single lens to the plurality of transmission fibers (Fig. 5). The d'Auria further teaches with reference to Fig. 6 that it is possible to discard position means for the coupling fiber lens on the substrate (holder). In such arrangement, with the help of a parallelepiped block is used to place the coupling fiber lens on the surface of substrate and an adhesive is used to attach the coupling fiber lens. Thus, the d'Auria clearly teaches that technique of single fiber lens to the transmission fiber can be applied to couple single fiber lens to the plurality of transmission fibers and also teaches another technique without using positioning means on the substrate.

Secondly, Dakss et al patent teaches a method for mounting lens on an end of an optical fiber comprising the steps of attaching lens directly to an end of the optical fiber using a bead of glue in a manner to self center and align the lens with a laser source. Such technique

Art Unit: 2874

is a much safer, less expensive and simple to carry out as taught by Dakss et al (lines 55-66 of column 3).

The ordinary artisan seeking to attach the fiber lens to the plurality of transmission fibers as shown in the d'Auria et al would be certainly motivated to use the technique of Dakss et al patent for the purpose of reducing the cost of the device.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2874

Contact Information

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2874 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 2874 via the PTO Fax Center located in CP4. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CP4 Fax Center number is (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Hemang Sanghavi** whose telephone number is (703) 305-3484.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



**Hemang Sanghavi
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 2874**